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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 CIAE-00
FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 INR-10 SY-05 HA-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 /079 W
----------014363 231132Z /14
R 201515Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 878
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 566

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, US, DJ, SA
SUBJ: SULTAN ALI MIRAN MOVEMENTS

REF: JIDDA 2837 (NOTAL)

1. POST PLEASED TO LEARN POSSIBILITY THAT ALI MIRAH MAY BE RETURNING TO SAUDI ARABIA AND NOT TOO PLEASED TO THINK THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO U.S.

2. HE REMAINS IN DJIBOUTI, WHERE HE IS ACUTE EMBARASSMENT TO GOVERNMENT AND MGIT FOREIGN MISSIONS WHO ARE REQUIRED FAIRLY SWIFT FOOTWORK TO AVOID CLOSE ASSOCIATION. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL INFORMED CHARGE THAT LETTER VERY SIMILAR TO THAT NOTED REFTEL RECEIVED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA. BASTOUIL HAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO PARIS THAT VISA NOT BE ACCORDED. HE THINKS THAT REQUEST WILL BE TURNED DOWN.

3. TWO FACTORS, SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY, SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN TREATMENT ALI MIRAH PROBLEM. FIRST, THE RAGTAILED MILITARY OPERATION LED BY ONE OF HIS SONS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE LOWER AWASH VALLEY AREA IN ETHIOPIA HAS BEEN VERY QUIET DURING THE PAST SIX WEEKS. THIS MAY BE AN EFFORT TO KEEP THINGS QUIET DURING THE SULTAN'S STAY IN DJIBOUTI OR SIMPLY AN INDICATION THAT PRESSURE BY ETHIOPIAN MILI-TARY HAS BEEN TOO HIGH. THE SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE, IS WHAT THE SULTAN MEANS BY "DESIRE TO OBTAIN AID ON A HUMANITARIAN BASIS" FROM EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR

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PRIVATE CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS. HE HAS NO MEANS TO ADMINISTER AID TO HIS FORMER SUBJECTS IN ETHIOPIA. THE RELATIVE HANDFUL OF REFUGEES IN DJIBOUTI ARE BEING CARED FOR BY UNHCR AS PART OF LARGER REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM. THEREFORE, HIS VISIT MAY INDICATE POSSIBLE FRAUD IF THERE IS TO BE ANY MONEY COLLECTED. IN ANY CASE, THE ONLY AID THAT WE KNOW OF THAT HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH ALI MIRAH AFARS AND THE SULTAN HIMSELF HAS BEEN USED FOR THE PURCHASE AND TRANSPORT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES. THESE ARE FACTORS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE A VISITOR'S VISA IS ISSUED.
CLARKE

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